

REMARKS

Claims 7-8, 13-16, and 21-22 are active in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lilling for the indication that Claims 7, 8, 13-16, 21, and 22 are allowed. Applicants particularly would like to thank the Examiner for rejoining Claims 13-16 and 21-22 with the allowance of the elected and previously examined claims. Consistent with the Examiner's indication that prosecution on the merits is now closed, Claims 9, 12, 17, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice towards presentation in an ensuing divisional application.

In regard to the duplicity between Claims 7 and 13, Applicants note that Claim 13 has been amended to remove the phrase "and mutants thereof." In view of this amendment, Claims 7 and 13 are no longer identical and it is requested that both of these claims and the claims dependent therefrom pass to allowance without further delay. An indication that the objection to Claims 7 and 13 has been withdrawn is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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